Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 PM-07 NSC-10 SS-15 RSC-01 CAB-09

CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 EB-11 INR-10 NSAE-00 FAA-00

OC-06 CCO-00 PA-03 USIA-12 PRS-01 ST-01 EUR-25 SAJ-01

NIC-01 AEC-11 SCI-06 RSR-01 /146 W

P 290620 Z JUN 73 FM USLO PEKING TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 338 INFO AMCONSUL HONG KONG PRIORITY

CONFIDENTIAL PEKING 0429

E. O. 11652: GDS TAGS: PFOR, CH

SUBJ: POSSIBLE CIVIL AVIATION STAND DOWN IN NORTHERN CHINA

REF: PEKING 0415; USDAO HONG KONG 28091 0 Z JUN 73

- 1. THERE CONTINUES TO BE NO CIVIL AIR FLIGHTS COMING IN OR GOING OUT OF PEKING, AND IT APPEARS THAT THIS SITUATION WILL PERSIST THROUGH THIS EVENING AT LEAST. USLO AND OTHER MISSIONS HAVING STRANDED TRAVELLERS HAVE BEEN TOLD THAT PIA AND AIR FRANCE FLIGHTS WILL LEAVE SATURDAY, JUNE 30. WE EXPECT THAT DOMESTIC FLIGHTS MAY RESUME AT SAME TIME.
- 2. CHECKS THROUGHOUT CITY AND WITH OTHER MISSIONS REVEAL NO UNUSUAL ACTIVITY. RAILROADS AND OTHER MEANS OF TRANSPORTATION OPERATING NORMALLY. USLO OFFICERS ATTENDED DGYPAR EVENING OF JUNE 28 HOSTED BY DAVID ROCKEFELLER WHERE SENIOR MFA AND FOREIGN TRADE OFFICIALS COMPLETELY RELAXED. REUTERS CORRESPONDENT DROVE TO PEKING AIRPORT YESTERDAY AND FOUND NO RESTRICTIONS, WITH AIRPORT STAFF SEIZING OPPORTUNITY TO SCRUB THE PLACE.
- 3. COMMENT: BY PROCESS OF ELIMINATION, WE AND OTHER CONFIDENTIAL

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MEMBERS OF DIPLOMATIC COMMUNITY TENTATIVELY CONCLUDE THAT TWO DAY STAND DOWN RELATED TO THERMONUCLEAR TEST ANNOUNCED JUNE 28. INITIALLY, WE WERE INCLINED TO DISCOUNT THIS POSSIBILITY SINCE, TO OUR KNOWLEDGE, CHINESE HAVE NOT TAKEN SIMILAR MEASURES IN PAST DURING NUCLEAR TESTS. ANY LIGHT DEPARTMENT OR HONG KONG CAN SHED ON WHY PRC APPEARS TO HAVE TAKEN EXTRA PRECAUTIONS FOR THIS TEST WOULD BE APPRECIATED. BRUCE

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NNNNMAFVVZCZ

*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

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TAGS: PFOR, CH

To: EA HONG KONG SECSTATE WASHDC

Type: TE

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